PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace tied to abduction

Execs feared testimony could bring GMA down

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NAMES THAT DIRECTLY link Malacañang to the highly questionable, now aborted $329-million broadband deal cropped up when electronics and communications engineer Rodolfo Lozada Jr. testified yesterday at the Senate. It is testimony officials had expressed fear could cause the downfall of President Macapagal-Arroyo.



WELL WORTH THE WAIT

‘Guava lesson:’ Of rural folk and greedy pols

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

GMA men gang up on Lozada: ‘Crying lady’

By Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

How nuns outwitted Lozada’s cop escorts

By Kristine L. Alave

Senate told funds for AFP, PNP diverted

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Riza T. Olchondra

JDV hosts Erap with unity on the menu



OF NEW YEAR AND NEW BEGINNINGS



Shake a leg and produce 5 watts, power phones

Romney quits GOP race, paving way for McCain run

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

EZ2 · FOUR DIGIT · SUERTRES · MEGALOTTO 6/45

P60,230,550.60

ARMM polls to be automated

Exercise a step toward full election automation in 2010

POEA backtracks on direct hiring

State procurement scheme a magnet for scams, experts say

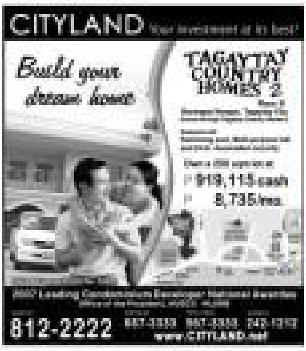
Bank closed due to insolvency

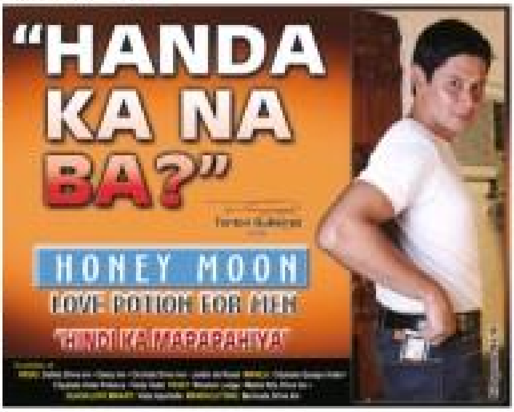
Mountain Province solon dies

Tired of running, Gringo pal wants warrant voided

Cleared of charges

Life on the run

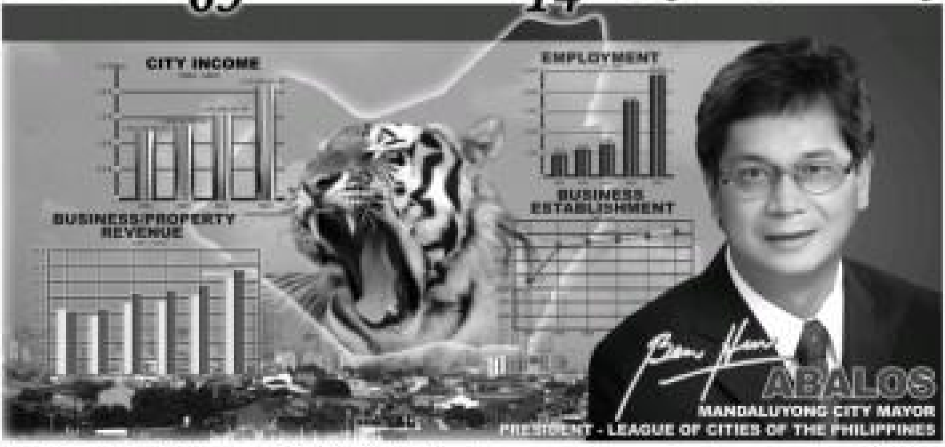






MANDALUYONG...THE TIGER CITY

63rd Liberation and 14th Cityhood Anniversary



Named as the "New Tiger City Economy in the Country" by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Asian Institute of Management & SGV Policy Center, Mandaluyong City continues to be at the crossroads of development at the heart of Metro Manila

THE MAKING OF A TIGER CITY

Mandaluyong, known as the "Tiger City of the Philippines", celebrates today the twin affair of its 63rd Liberation Day and its 14th Cityhood Anniversary with great optimism to surge towards continuing growth and development.

The political history of Mandaluyong dates back to the 1500s. Formerly known as San Felipe Neri, Mandaluyong was separated from Sta. Ana de Sapa, Province of Tondo in 1841. It was consolidated with San Juan del Monte and, later on, became the capital of the Province of Rizal. By virtue of House Bill No. 5876, Mandaluyong became an independent municipality on March 27, 1907. Eventually, by virtue of RA 7675, Mandaluyong became a full-fledged city on February 9, 1994.

The strategic location of Mandaluyong at the heart of the Metropolis not only makes it an ideal residential place but also a lucrative site for trade and commerce. The growth in the number of locators and investors who find Mandaluyong as a conducive area for their business contributed to the increase in the city's revenue from an income of P40 million in 1986 to P1.6 billion as of year end 2007. with its dynamic economic growth, Mandaluyong was accorded "Tiger City" for its competitive advantage by no less than the Department of Trade and Industry, SGV Policy Center and Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Consequently, Mandaluyong was recognized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the "Most Business Friendly City" in 2005. The Civil Service Commission granted Mandaluyong the "Best Frontline Service Award". And, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) declared the city as the pilot area for science and technology development, supportive of information-technology related type of business.

Bestowed with these awards and accolades, City Mayor Benhur Abalos stresses, "We are very proud to be given this distinction as "Tiger City" by prestigious organizations and agencies. Mandaluyong will continue to make headways in all facets of development," stresses City Mayor Benhur Abalos, who was also elected as the President of the League of Cities of the Philippines.

He was cited as the Outstanding City Mayor and was bestowed the Local Government Leadership Award (LGLA) in 2001 by the Senate of the Philippines, Ateneo School of Government-Ateneo de Manila, La Salle Institute of Governance-DLSU, Center for Governance Development, Development Academy of the Philippines, San Carlos University, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, Mindanao State University and the Kalayaan College.

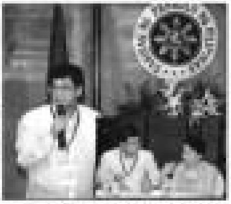
The utmost concern of the local government to promote the welfare of differently-able individuals earned Mandaluyong the prestigious Apolinario Mabini Award in ceremonies held at the Malacañang Palace in 1999. It is also the first local government unit to create the Disabled Persons Affairs Office. At present, the city has come up with an early intervention program for the benefit of children with special needs.

He was also awarded three-time Most Outstanding City Mayor and Public Servant (1999, 2001, 2003) awarded by the National Consumer's Union.

In 2003, Mandaluyong through the able leadership of Mayor Abalos was cited by the Department of Education as the Most Outstanding Local Government Unit in Metro Manila for recognition of his initiatives in support of various education related programs including enhanced computer literacy skills of high schools and the development of unique literacy program for children with disabilities.

Mayor Abalos is bent to make Mandaluyong an economic tiger, where people from all walks of life would enjoy the benefit of good governance.











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JDV hosts dinner for Erap with alliance on the menu



COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEF

Winning slate

Long overdue

Feeling out each other

Senate told funds for AFP, PNP housing, Angat Dam diverted

Accommodating NBN project

Overpriced by 22%

DOTC denial

Also funded by China

Romney quits GOP race, paving way for McCain's party nomination

$5-M loan from herself

Income tax returns

No surrender to terror

True conservative

Shake a leg and produce 5 watts, power phones

Practical use

5 watts of power

Backpack

Bulky prototype



DPWH says it's helpless against billboards

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC Works and Highways yesterday appealed to all billboard owners to help the government save its limited funds and voluntarily inspect and check if their structures complied with the additional rules and guidelines regarding billboards provided under the National Building Code.

DPWH National Building Code Development Office Executive Emmanuel Cacnapoy admitted that the department had limited funds for it to fully undertake safety inspections of the many advertising structures put up along roads and was thus forced to make the appeal.

To date, out of 1,034 inspected billboards, the DPWH National Capital Region Oplan Baklas Billboard team had already dismantled a total of 840 illegal and unsafe billboards.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the efforts of the agency's "Operation Baklas Billboard" continued to inspect and dismantle all illegal and unsafe billboards along major thoroughfares nationwide.

"The additional rules and guidelines were already published twice in major broadsheets last year and were made available in the DPWH website for easy reference of all billboard owners and advertisers," Ebdane said.

"For this reason, billboard owners should by now have made the necessary repairs, secured the necessary permit and if the structure were illegal, should have voluntarily dismantled them to ensure public safety," he added.

Palace tied to abduction



STELLAR HEARING [illegible]

[illegible]

Fear of Senate appearance

[illegible]

Criminal liability

[illegible]

Malacañang meeting

[illegible]

Orders via radio

[illegible]

Ugly side

[illegible]

Affidavits

[illegible]

GMA men gang up on Lozada: 'Crying lady'

[illegible]

Ma'am & ES

[illegible]

Self-dealing executive

[illegible]

Mea culpa

[illegible]

Blockbuster

[illegible]

'Permissible zone'

[illegible]

No case yet

[illegible]

'Guava lesson:' Of rural folk and greedy pols

[illegible]

Time to cry

[illegible]

Self-respect

[illegible]

Sharp wit

[illegible]

Thoughts of Bubby Dacer

[illegible]



RELIGIOUS groups form a protective guard around Rodolfo Noel "Jun" Lozada in the dark about the holding of a press conference at the La Salle Green Hills, San Juan, at 2 o'clock in the morning on Thursday. The move conspired a government plan to present Lozada to the media on Thursday morning.

How nuns outwitted ...

From page A1

to the Senate afterward to enable him to testify on the scandal-tainted $329-million National Broadband Network project.

Bro. Edmund Fernandez, head of the De La Salle Brothers Philippines, told the Inquirer that guarding and protecting Lozada from harm was "quite an adventure" for all those who were involved.

He said the religious community and members of the Lozada family kept some information from the police, whom the family did not trust.

Lozada, a telecommunications expert, has implicated President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and ex-poll chair Benjamin Abalos in the allegedly overpriced and now-scrapped deal with China's ZTE Corp.

According to Fernandez, the Lozadas and the religious did not tell the police about having a press conference at 2 a.m. on Thursday.

A surprise

Fernandez said he knew that Lozada was being pressured by former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to hold a press conference announcing he had not been abducted by government agents and that he was safe.

The police and Mike Defensor had also wanted the press conference held Thursday morning, he said.

But the family and the community moved the schedule hours earlier and invited all media members, which took Lozada's own police escorts by surprise.

"They were angry. Senior Supt. Paul Mascariñas (head of the police team) was really mad," Fernandez said, adding the police were under the impression that only a few media people would be present in the briefing planned by Defensor.

Can you trust them?

Instead, a horde of journalists—alerted by church sources to the rescheduled press conference—descended on the compound.

"[illegible]?" Fernandez recalled Mascariñas telling him.

Fernandez said they did not tell the police about the changes because the family did not trust them.

"If you were being guarded and if you were taken for a ride in Metro Manila, would you trust them?" he said.

He said the plan, which was approved by Lozada and his family, involved Lozada's turnover to Senate authorities immediately after the press conference.

"Everybody agreed about it. It was the best option," Fernandez said.

Cooling their heels

All the while that Lozada was undertaking himself before the media, his escorts were walking around the area.

"They looked like they didn't know what to do," Fernandez said.

The mounting presence of the media allowed Lozada to get away from his escorts, he said.

It also helped that more than various religious organizations had surrounded Lozada before, during and after the news briefing.

Art of deception

Even the arrival of the nuns was kept secret from the police.

"They passed (through) the back, not in the front, so that they wouldn't be seen," said Fernandez.

"It was quite an adventure," he added.

According to Fernandez, Lozada initially arrived at the La Salle Green Hills compound in Mandaluyong City late Tuesday night with his police escorts.

He said the police did not want Lozada's [illegible] because they said they "wanted to protect him."

Police always around

At 8 o'clock the following morning, a Wednesday, Lozada and the policemen left, returning at around 3 p.m., Fernandez said. The brothers had no idea where they went.

Fernandez said five to six plainclothesmen were with Lozada during his stay in the school. He said he could not tell if Lozada was comfortable with the policemen around.

According to Fernandez, the police escorts were stationed at the "dormitory" of a building, while Lozada was with his family somewhere else.

In a statement, Bro. Felipe C. Belleza Jr., FSC, president of the La Salle Green Hills alumni association, said members of the Lozada family sought sanctuary with the brothers because of security concerns.

Christian duty

"We were convinced that it was our duty as Christian educators to give sanctuary to the children and their mother while Mr. Lozada was out of the country and threats to their safety still exist," he said.

Fernandez said Lozada's wife, Violeta, and their five children—four of whom are students at the school—had been in the university since Monday.

He said Violeta was distraught upon learning that unidentified men, who later turned out to be members of law enforcement agencies, had grabbed Lozada at the airport on his return Tuesday afternoon.

"Why didn't they say that he was here?" Fernandez said.

No abduction?

He said the family did not ask for Lozada to be brought to the university. It just happened that the family had sought shelter at the school, he said.

"Mr. Lozada asked to be brought to his wife who was very afraid. We wanted to protect them," Fernandez said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the police only provided security for Lozada supposedly upon his request and that no abduction occurred.

INQUIRER
OPINION

Immoderate greed

EDITORIAL

IT WAS A STORY THE PUBLIC HAD HEARD A FEW times before, but the fresh re-telling of the National Broadband Network scandal by Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. still came as a shock even to a people grown cynical about their government and public officials. For it's only now after Lozada mentioned the instruction he received from former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to "moderate their greed" that the Filipino people are starting to get an idea of the unbridled greed and breath-taking rapacity of the personalities involved in the now aborted transaction.

Lozada, an engineer by training whom Neri tapped as a consultant in the project intended to link all units of government under one telecommunications network, said the NBN was originally intended to be undertaken under a build-operate-transfer scheme. Amsterdam Holdings Inc., a firm owned by Jose de Venecia III, submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the project. But a group headed by then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos proposed to set up the NBN through a loan from the government of the People's Republic of China with the Chinese firm ZTE as supplier. Faced with the difficult decision of choosing between two influential parties, Neri asked Lozada to reconcile their differences and "moderate their greed." Lozada came up with what he thought to be a "win-win solution": let AHI undertake the project with ZTE as its supplier.

Abalos, who was brokering for ZTE, apparently had no problem with that. But according to Lozada, Abalos had one condition: he wanted to "protect" his $130-million "commission." Lozada pointed out that the amount was so huge it could arouse public suspicion. And when told of Abalos' demand, Lozada said, De Venecia went "ballistic," realizing he couldn't cough up the amount and still make the venture profitable.

Enter First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. One phone call from Abalos to complain about Neri's insistence on a BOT contract and threatening to call the whole thing off, and—presto!—there was a letter from the government of the People's Republic of China saying it was willing to finance the project with a concessional loan. De Venecia was cut off from the deal. And in just a few months, the agreements were signed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who flew in and out of Boao, China, "like a thief in the night," as a Malacañang press release put it.

Lozada, whose long association with Neri allowed him to see a number of big government contracts being negotiated, said the NBN deal was but one example of how the "dysfunctional government procurement system" worked. But even to someone who had seen one corrupt deal after another, the NBN transaction apparently was extraordinarily brazen and gross. Lozada hinted that he might not have objected if Abalos and his associates had scaled down their commission to about 20 percent. He said that was the amount of overpricing he noticed when he reviewed the $512-million SouthRail project. But in the NBN project, the overprice was almost 100 percent, based on the $130-million commission Abalos was demanding and the initial project cost of $262 million. "I don't know if the listener can realize how much money we are talking about," Lozada said during his press conference at La Salle Greenhills. At the exchange rate prevailing then of about P50 to a dollar, that amount was equivalent to P1.5 billion, he calculated.

That is a mind-boggling commission even in an administration that has seen P728 million in fertilizer funds vanish during the 2004 elections and P1.3 billion thrown away in the purchase of useless automated vote counting machines (also under Abalos) that the Supreme Court found to be tainted with anomalies. And it might have grown with the project cost escalating to $329 million. De Venecia has said the First Gentleman would have pocketed $70 million from the deal.

Lozada is lucky he is still alive after his abduction. In an earlier era, his explosive revelations would have brought the administration down. And that's something the Arroyo administration would prevent at all costs and at any cost, even if it means breaking the law and spurning the Senate, a coequal branch under our system of government.



Greed in a changing landscape

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

"YOU MODERATE THEIR GREED." That was the instruction of Socio-Economic General Romulo Neri to Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. at one point in the latter's work as technical consultant on the NBN-ZTE project. [illegible]

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Obvious!

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ALL THOSE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS. All those press conferences and TV interviews [illegible]

Survey numbers of JDV

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Final piece of a puzzle

YOUNG BLOOD

Krisanne Alcantara

The 'first language' bridge to Filipino and English

COMMENTARY

Greg and Diane Dekker

Steady Eddie throws a party

BETWEEN DEADLINES





'Custody' has new meaning

LETTERS

San Fernando terminal causing traffic jams

Intercropping edible and biofuel plants, why not?



Mike A: Again, I don't have anything to do with NBN deal

[illegible]

Lozada breaks silence

[illegible]

Mike Arroyo was around

[illegible]

Furious exchange

[illegible]

Project balloons to $329

[illegible]

GMA witnesses signing

[illegible]

Mother's plea

[illegible]

INQUIRER Visayas

Village education gains from Danish support

M'AM NICOLE" AND "MA'AM Susanne" are not your usual elementary school teachers in the rural villages of Iloilo.



Blegvad initiative



School repair

DepEd appreciation

Special children

Feeding program

Across the NATION

NEWSBRIEFS

■ BAGUIO CITY

Owwa, Tesda start training househelps

■ BENGUET

Frost won't disrupt veggie data bank plan

■ CAMARINES SUR

Army distributes new weapons to militiamen

■ BACOLOD CITY

Cop chief suspended for wrong arrest

■ BACOLOD CITY

Gunmen shoot dead cop in front of wife

US Embassy questions witness account on GI roles in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE UNITED STATES EMbassy in Manila has questioned claims that US forces participated in Monday's gunfight in Maimbung, Sulu, that killed eight persons, including two children and a pregnant woman.



BEACH FUN
Children play by the beach where boats being prepared for a race rest. The race, known as the Paraw Regatta, is on its 36th year.

Alarm bells rung on rise in number of coal plants

Coal everywhere

Inconsistency

Cops stop dumping of hospital wastes in SCTEx

3 LTO execs face raps for car smuggling

Criminal charges

Heads to roll

More Sports stories on A21 to A24

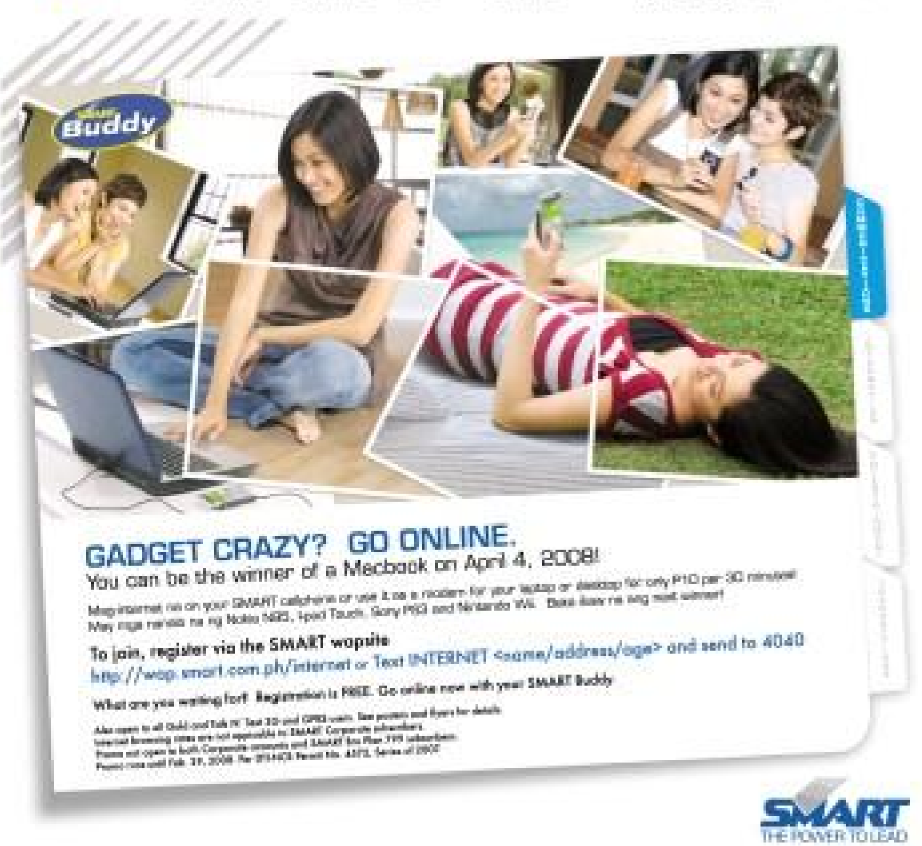
Late SPORTS

Barako force KO match





Adriano shines in Red Bull's rout of P'foods



A plus METRO

LGUs asked to ban outdoor cigarette ads

Antismoking groups report continuing violation of law in 3 Metro cities

Publishing: Easy and Affordable

5 Manila schools now teach Arabic, Muslim values

Dengue alert in Metro

UCPB disputes Pasay City court ruling on real estate case

Just a matter of time

ON TARGET



The WORLD

Scotland Yard: Blow to head killed Bhutto



PLANE MENACE

WASHINGTON—INVESTIGATORS FROM SCOTland Yard have concluded that Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani opposition leader, died after hitting her head as she was tossed by the force of a suicide blast, not from an assassin's bullet, officials who have been briefed on the inquiry said Thursday.

NYT

Studies call biofuels a greenhouse threat

NYT

87 held on Gambino links to 3 decades of crime

NYT

WORLDBRIEFS

US Congress passes economic stimulus package

NYT

6 Palestinians, teacher killed in Gaza clashes

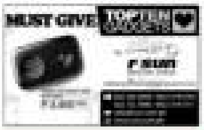
AP

US gunman kills 5 at city council meeting

AFP

SPORTS





Japan takes 2-0 lead as Mamiit, Tierro fall

Stomach flu downs Taino; RP must-win today

Story on A12

Tanpinco snares title with fiery closing 56



[illegible]

Championship Flight honors

[illegible]

BGCC team champ

[illegible]



Cage body seeks PBA help for 3-year int'l campaign

Japan takes 2-0 lead in Davis Cup



SPORTSWATCH

15 teams plunge into action as Hobie Nat'l tilt sails today

Paging Aikido enthusiasts

Charifer caging gets going

Ponce still PKF head—Lim

BC badminton tourney on

120 fights in SJC derby today

Becierra rallies to pip Skelton, gains Last 8



Spotlight on Morales today

Rizal province hosts big NCA derby Feb. 12

PSA Prexy's Award to Pacquiao









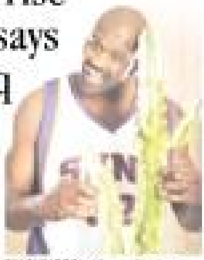


SPORTS

Rockets shoot down Cavs; Bulls triumph



The sun will rise in Phoenix, says ex-Heat Shaq



Beijing still battling pollution



IN THIS ISSUE

- Gov't to launch bond warrants /B3
- DOF prepares amendments to sin tax law /B10

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carvin S. Marinina



Inflation expected to rise to 3.9% in '08

BSP not likely to reduce key rates in March

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S INFLATION IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 3.9 percent this year from the average of 2.8 percent last year, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest survey involving 13 private sector analysts.

"Analysts noted that price pressures in 2008 will come from strong domestic demand, high world commodity prices, including food and oil, low 2007 base effects, higher wages, higher cost of transportation and utilities, growth in liquidity and bad weather," the BSP said in its quarterly inflation report.

For 2009, analysts predict that inflation will further increase to 4.1 percent, the BSP survey showed.

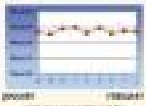
However, the analysts polled also acknowledged that the appreciating peso and favorable agricultural production may temper the rise in prices.

Based on the respondents' forecasts, the BSP said there is a [illegible] percent chance that inflation this year would be within the lower half of the government's inflation target range of 3 to 5 percent. The target range for next year has been set at 2.5 to 4.5 percent.

The private institutions covered by the BSP survey were: ATR Kim Eng Securities, Bank of America, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of Singapore, [illegible] Ltd., HSBC, IDEA, ING Bank, Lehman Brothers, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Nomura Securities, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

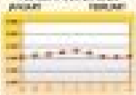
In February, inflation is expected to accelerate further, breaching

INFLATION/B2



CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.6% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.6 PERCENT higher as bargain hunters stepped in after three straight days of losses, dealers said.

But investors were picky and volumes remained thin as many markets in Asia remained closed for the Lunar New Year holidays, they said.

The composite index gained [illegible] points to close at

SHARES/B2

Aboitiz group to buy back shares to bolster price

Power, banking units covered by program

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

[illegible]

Bond rating firms try to repair credibility



[illegible]

RLC launches 4th Boni condo project

[illegible]

Gov't to launch bond warrants

Company gives call center agents option to work at home



Move to make ROP bonds more attractive

SBMA reports 20% growth in Subic seaport revenue

Inflation expected to rise ...

Shares close 0.6% higher

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Hypertension experts to come up with 'healthier' guide



By Tessa R. Salazar

THE NEXT TIME you're treated for hypertension, most likely your doctor will be armed with a best-practice guideline for treatment.

Establish screening sites

Recommendations

Revalidation of guidelines

'Marunong ang nagtatanong!' hypertension campaign

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

Educating the public

Myth and truth

Hypertension, lipid congress tackles killer disease



Key factor

Good news

Lifestyle changes help control BP, diabetes, cholesterol problems

BP ideally less than 130/80

Lifestyle changes

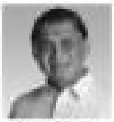
Philippine Society of Hypertension & Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society

Joint 13th Annual Convention
"Resolving Controversies in Hypertension, Atherosclerosis and Dyslipidemia"
February 13 - 15, 2008
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Quezon City

Harmonization amidst controversies













PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Dr. Matthew Ryan Weir
Prof. William Thomas Cefalu
Dr. Pastrom Abanquero Jr.
Dr. Nelson Abelardo
Dr. Atellus Aquino
Dr. Elmer Angus
Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan
Dr. Angeli Bandala
Dr. Napoleon Caballero, FTBP
Dr. Josephine Cortes-Ramos
Dr. Alberto Chua
Dr. Carlos Chua
Dr. Rosario Cruz-Bemlia
Dr. Ramon Divinagracia
Dr. Timothy Dy
Dr. Manuel Ignacius Estrellas
Dr. Romulo Esagunda
Dr. Salvador Flores
Dr. Lorenz Go
Dr. Ruby Go
Dr. Lynn Gomez
Ms. Jocelyn Guzman, RN
Dr. Herbert Ho
Dr. Ma. Adelaida Bataan Ila
Dr. Reynaldo Imperial
Dr. Godofredo Inciong Jr.
Dr. Ivy Pinamoay-Tan
Dr. Saturnino Javier
Dr. Vanessa Madera
Dr. Alvin Marcelo
Dr. Carlo Jose Maximo
Dr. Carlo Mitterente
Dr. Roberto Mirasol
Dr. Dante Morales
Dr. Jorge Padilla
Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco
Dr. Cesar Perez
Dr. Felix Eduardo Punzalan
Dr. Eugenio Jose Ramos
Dr. Eugene Reyes
Dr. Reynaldo Rosales
Dr. Ana Sago-Nolido
Dr. Karla Christine Silvestre-Fernando
Dr. Jorge Sison
Dr. Ma. Luz Joanna Sevia
Dr. Rose Ellyn Sy
Dr. Rody Sy
Mr. Larry Tagalog, RN
Dr. Rina Tan
Dr. Ray Jayne Tan
Dr. Garry Tan
Dr. Josephine Valdez
Ms. Felicidad Velandria, RND

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Acknowledgment

The Organizing Committee of the PSH & PLAS expresses sincere gratitude to the following cooperating societies/organizations and companies for their support to its Joint 13th Annual Convention.

For convention inquiries and registration, interested physicians and health care professionals may call the PSH-PLAS Secretariat at 631-7970 or 687-7073.
Registration on-site will be accommodated but delegates are advised to register before hand to avoid the long queue on opening day.

New study favors gastric banding surgery to treat type 2 diabetes



No longer needed

Higher remission rate

Reduce the capacity

Over 300,000 procedures



Losing weight, regaining life

CarePlus



Medical treatment sought

Comprehensive program

Still a work in progress



TV math bloopers

Eureka!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



How many tens?

Are they really equal?

The wonders of soya

Hearing smiles

Discover



One-on-one interviews

Identifying a smile

Acoustical data

PROPERTY



Developers say housing issues need to be followed up

SHDA will continue to offer its opinion and assistance on a number of proposed bills in the Senate

By Charles E. Buban

SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING Developers Association's new set of officers promised to pursue the organization's current programs, which include finding ways to sustain the growth that the industry is currently experiencing.

Put up more projects

High multiplier effect



AWESOME STRUCTURES



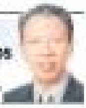
THE LARGEST Buddhist temple in the world

By Emman Cena

Inside Borobudur

Energy summit

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

Crisis or opportunity?

Energy efficiency

Obsolete air conditioning

Management system

Retrofit program



Beacon groundbreaking rite marks birth of Makati's newest discovery

The leading light

Every bit of space counts

Sound investment



Flourishing Mediterranean-themed Colina in the countryside



COMFORTABLE and playful interiors designed by Wilmer Lopez

3 home models

Strategic site

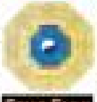




Inside Borobudur

Buddhist pilgrimage

Charms that bring more luck, good fortune





6-Dragon Pagoda



Ching Lung Azure Dragon

Liang Yi Quan Enhancer



Hugging couple



Gold Toad wealth guardian

Kwan Yin (Quan Yin)

Metal rod wind chime

New hub for Cavite retail firms

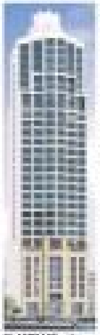
Various lot cuts

Prospective locators

KL Mosaic: The essence of fine living

A trailblazing dev't

Exceptional amenities



KL MOSAIC — the Philippines' first "architecture."



MODERN cosmo living is raised to an art form at KL Mosaic.



ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Phase 2 garden cluster



Fountain Breeze's entrance gate and guard house



30-sq-m Phinma units near airport go for P1M

By [illegible]

FOR P1.1 MILLION TO P1.5 million, you can have a 30- or 40-square-meter condominium unit at Lopez(?) Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque. The residential condominium development is estimated to be 15 minutes away from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and 30 minutes away from Makati.

[illegible]

Opening of second phase

[illegible]

Continue to make 'quality units'

[illegible]



FOUNTAIN Breeze's model unit for Phase 2

This week Super means Sappy• Unrequited• Pregnant• Eros• Ravish

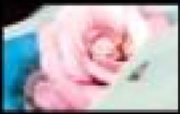
FLIRT WITH SUPER

super

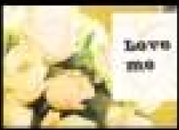




The Police raids Singapore
by Karen Kunawicz
page C2



Mauled by Asia
page C2
by James Gabrillo



Charlie's agents
by Pam Pastor
page C4



Heart-y food
page C6
by Wanggo Gallaga



FLY WITH SUPER

Catching The Police



By [illegible]



THERE'S THE EUPHORIC [illegible]

[illegible]

The affair begins

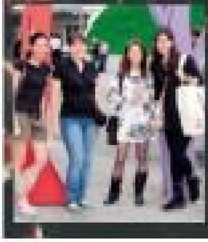
[illegible]

My S.O.S. to the world

[illegible]

Magic, magic, magic

[illegible]







character

Tired of local tacky tune junk? Try what our neighbors have to offer

LATELY, AIRWAVES TUNES HAVE BEEN MESSED UP BY MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD ROCK tunes and bad hip-hop. That's why it's comforting to bump into ultra-talented, under-the-radar bands with decent pop and rhythmic sensibilities. It's even more amazing when you find out that they hail from places you never thought could hone such coolness.

[illegible]

White Shoes & The Couples Company

A few years ago, three students in an art institute decided that they needed a different kind of release. They formed a band and made their debut performance in one of their college's events. [illegible]

[illegible]





Maliq & D'essentials

[illegible]

Tomorrow People Ensemble

[illegible]





Goodnight Electric

Combining elements from new wave, electro, and pop, the boys of Goodnight Electric deftly handle their synthesizers and computers to produce solid tunes that contribute to the synthpop genre. Currently one of Asia's most talked about bands, the trio dance group is inspired by musicians in the early 80s and 90s like Depeche Mode, The Cure, and Belle and Sebastian.

"You must hear their singles "Neo Robot," "Rocker Baby," and "Super Man Go," which is a personal favorite. The band's lyrics is fun without being annoying, ill-disciplined without being faulty: "When you see me at the mall / You already know that I ... / I thought you're a U.F.O. / Or are you coming from the future? / You're in fashion / Super nice ..."

When asked in an online interview how they would describe their sound, the band answered: "Cheap and cheesy but it's good?"

Electronic music might never be as pop as pop, but it will never die. Trust Goodnight Electric to continue exploring new sounds that'll make their music sound more exciting than before.



Hedgehog

Teen spirit in the roar of spiky pop—say hello to Hedgehog.

When they started out, their tunes leaned towards the punk genre. After a while, they found their right brand of sound when a new drummer, Atom, joined them.

Like real hedgehogs, this band has the personality to boot. Influenced by the likes of Nirvana, The Smashing Pumpkins, and Sparklehorse, Hedgehog's music has been compared to the hues of Shanghai retro music and 70-80s Hong Kong pop songs.

Listen to their songs and, well, you'll be reminded of the pains and joys of growing up. Gaudy and charismatic, expect more to come from Hedgehog.



[illegible]

Don't be turned off, but the guys of [illegible] were hand-picked and fitted together like a boy band by their teachers from their university. They started out as a cover band, but after accidentally discovering their knack for songwriting and grabbing elements from hard rock, grunge, jazz, funk, and rap, they adopted a new sound in their name, which literally means "a loud sound."

Thriving on delivering the unexpected, the five-piece [illegible] can be loud and melodic but still be extremely listenable. These cats are pretty technically skilled that they don't alienate anyone. This is progressive pop at its best.



Caracal

They've never known exactly what their sound should be. Nonetheless, Caracal continues to play what they want to play.

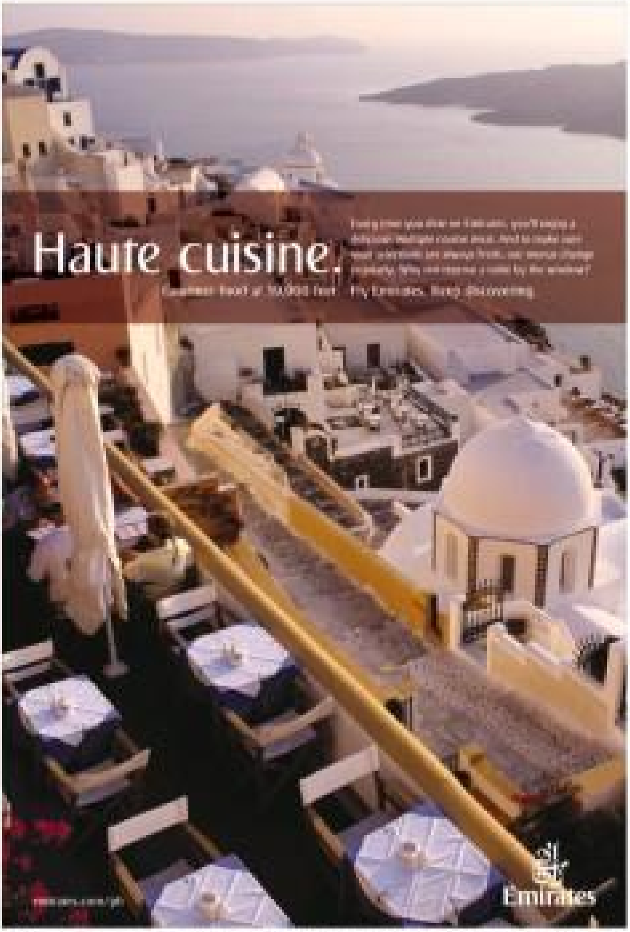
Driven by the desire to leave a positive impact on their listeners, Chris, Gabriel, Field, Martin, and RC write their songs to provide musical solutions to everyday problems.

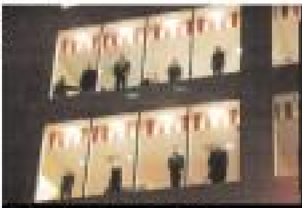
Their first song, "When Open Armed Cuisine Close" is a gem—the group successfully churned out music that fellow young band kids will appreciate.

Plus, the group's comical. Not strange comical, but pleasantly comical. They even have their own set of [illegible] rules—No. 17 goes "Never, ever, EVER stay still."

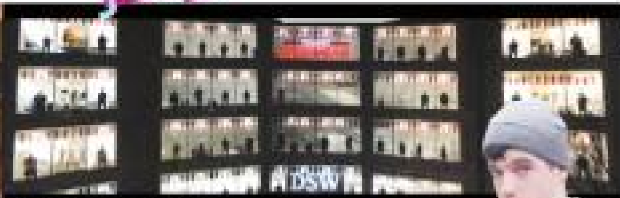
"Well, just want everyone to enjoy themselves and if people are willing to go the extra mile, to look beyond themselves and feel life in a manner worth singing about. We often think we know which way the wind blows but perhaps after listening to us, you might welcome change," they write on their website.

With a clear direction ahead of them—to take advantage of the freedom of creativity and polish it with honesty—Caracal is worth [illegible] along to.





CHARLIE'S FAVORITE Mission: Look Up More



Charlie and the prank factory



BIG MAC: Charlie Todd is the man behind the missions



WILL THE real Ben Folds please stand up?



AGENT SIMMONS plays a bathroom attendant at McDonald's.

They're not really pranks. Charlie Todd and the rest of Improv Everywhere call them missions. But Super thinks of them as love letters to New York.



AGENTS posing as Best Buy employees

By Pam Pastor

ONE SATURDAY night in March 2005, 61 undercover agents arrived at Union Square Park in New York, dressed in black.

Chaos and joy

Ben Folds Fake

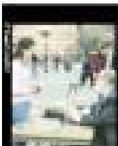


SHIRTLESS Shoppers

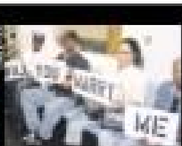
Romantic Comedy Cab

Frozen agents

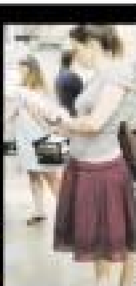
Stories for strangers



ANTON Chekov rises from the dead

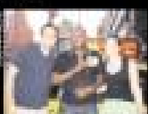


SUBWAY proposal



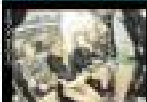


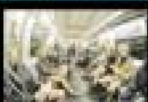
CHARLIE Todd backstage with Ben of Ben Folds Five

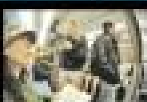


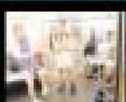
ROMANTIC Comedy Cab

FROZEN shopper at Home Depot









NO PANTS Mission: This year, nearly 1,000 people took off their pants on subways around the world.



PEOPLE watching the agents dance during the Look Up More mission



NEW YORKERS watching the fake U2 rooftop concert

SUPER SELECTS

Can(t) Buy Me Love

Cupid strikes again but this time Super selects something different to gift someone you love, or you want to love you.

Romantic Bling







Love Potions

Sharapova Shines Off-court



PERFECT MATCH: Sharapova and Sony Ericsson



K770i Cybershot phone

Play with Maria—Sony Ericsson Contests

Dress Up Maria Sharapova

Maria Sharapova Theme Song



W580i walkman phone



SUPER CHEER

First at the Flip-stop

GO TEAM PH: Marc and Rovilson of the Amazing Race

INTERIORITY COMPLEX

Captain Kamote

Sweet potato serves as saviour to this Super scribe



Where Gluttony is not a Sin



LAMB curry with apple raisin chutney



BANANA cream pie

By Wengee Galingo
Photos by Bengbro Mon

NESTLED IN CONNECTICUT Street in Greenhills, Angel's Kitchen is slowly gaining its reputation as a go-to place for comfortable dining. It's the kind of place you go to for the third date; that stage when you still want to make an impression but you also want to do something that's different and surprising. It's also the kind of place families go to, where each one orders something different and then pass the plates around to try everything on the menu. Aside from the delicious food, it's the homey atmosphere that really brings people in. One of Angel's Kitchen's partners, Marnie Dy describes it best as a "home café. We serve comfort food."

Dressed in bright colors, Angel's Kitchen doesn't need a lot as it's been in well abroad as people have begun to discover this gastronomical hideaway. They serve what Marnie explains "is the food she parents' children love to eat." It's concept food embraces fusion or creations. They mix and match cuisines from all corners of the world to make delightful dishes that is sure to surprise. For appetizers, there's the amazing Peras and Kesi salad or the playful Gambas with Chorizo bits. Pasta has been re-imagined with Longganisa Bolognese that is very engaging. Regulars swear by the Pinakbet Paella with chocolate bagoong, which may seem like a strange combination but it's the best! The sweet taste of the chocolate mixes well with the salty bagoong flavor and the freshness of the vegetables. Another favorite is the Lamb Curry with apple raisin chutney. Marnie assures the curry is brought straight from Canada and Thailand so it's fresh and authentic.

Another sure winner from Angel's Kitchen is the desserts. From the mind blowing Banana Cream Pie to the rich Rustic Apple Pie with Caramel Sauce. Rich and full-flavored, the desserts will definitely hook you in. "The best way to drown your heart's sorrows is with a good slice of heaven in the form of dessert and this resto knows exactly what the heart ordered."

With regards to décor and the menu, Marnie expounds how everything was "their way of making people feel like they are at home." Food, at its most basic, is meant to keep us alive. One cannot help but find solace in a slice of pie. When dressed in a manner that is familiar and relaxed, the comfort is more than appreciated.

Angel's Kitchen is at 57 Connecticut St. North East Greenhills, San Juan. For reservations call 711-8822.



GAMBAS with chorizo bits



PINAKBET paella with chocolate bagoong



RUSTIC apple pie

super

Shots to the Heart

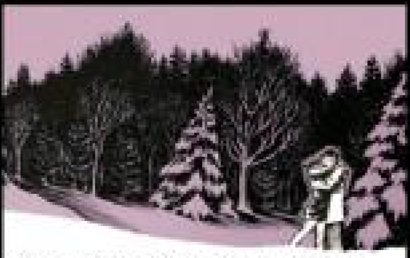
By Ramon de Veyra

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR again when love is supposedly in the air, when greeting card companies and chocolatiers see their highest sales; when mens' wallets hang limp and bruised, buttressed only by the loving coos of their objects of affection; when single people curse couples and more than one person will be conceived. Ahh, l'amour. So what better time to take a look at some love-themed comics?

In the '50s romance comics were a huge section of the industry, even heavyweight artists like Jack Kirby and John Romita drew them for Marvel, who used to publish more than just superheroes. These days, most romance comics—in terms of volume alone—are Japanese in origin. But you don't have to look far to find a number of shining gems in the rough, at least where Western comics about relationships are concerned.

'Blankets' by Craig Thompson

"Blankets" is cartoonist Craig Thompson's masterwork, and clocking in at a hefty 600 pages, there's certainly some weight to the argument (excuse the pun). In spirit, it's basically a retelling of Thompson's first book, "Goodbye Chunky Rice,"



Need a break from the phantasmagoric world of superheroes and fantasy landscapes? Take a gander at some contemporary, love-themed comics

Where to Stop Where to Go

Celebrate romance at The Richmonde Hotel



A grand Valentine's Day at Dusit Hotel Nikko



InterContinental Valentine offers

Guilt-free pleasures this Valentine's at Waterfront's G Hotel

Fall in love at Manila Pavilion

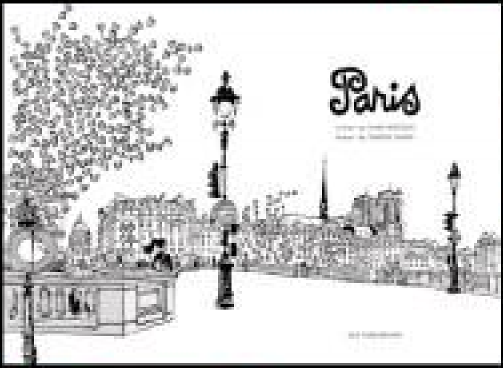
The Malayan Plaza Hotel's love package

Have a date at Mabuhay Manor

Variety of pleasures on Valentine's Day at the Century Park

Valentines Day at The Bellevue

It's love at Best Western Astor











Shots to the Heart

[illegible]

The Mirror of Love by Alan Moore / Jose Vil...

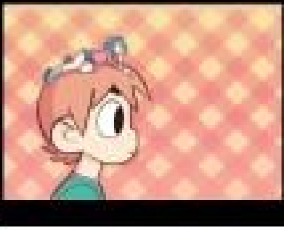
[illegible]

Paris by Andi Watson / Simon Gane

[illegible]

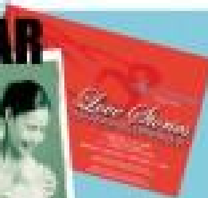
Scott Pilgrim by Bryan Lee O'Malley

[illegible]



24/7 SUPER RADAR













SATURDAY Special

Miley Cyrus finds new medium to conquer



Film version

False story

NOW SHOWING

Charming performances buoy up flighty dramedy



NICHOLSON AND FREEMAN.

By Rito P Asilo

"The Bucket List"

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Heath Ledger remembered



Chinese specialty treats

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza



Readers and viewers react

Tinseltown's young singing princesses delighted moviegoers



Taut horror flick delivers the chills



Jose Mari Chan's timeless tunes defy trends



Lessons and insights

LOTUS POND

Taut...

From page E1

[illegible]

Fundamentalism

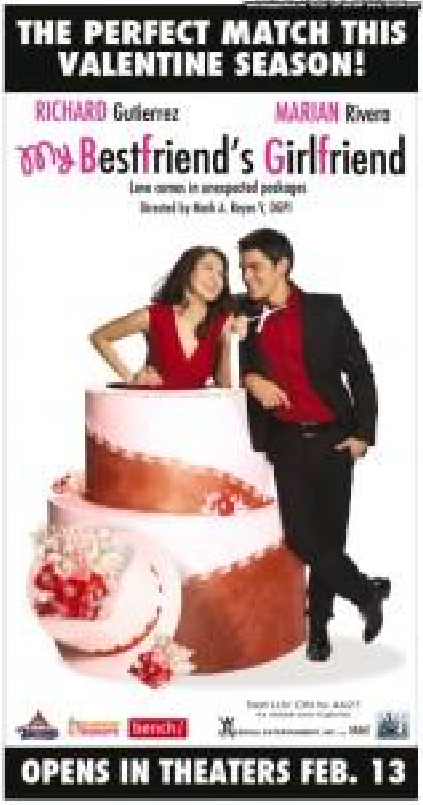
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Miley...

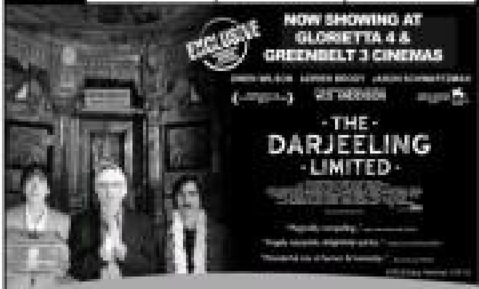
From page E1

[illegible] AP











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REPACKED ALBUM OUT NOW!

VIVA

ENTERTAINMENT

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

SATURDAY Special

FORUM

What's your favorite romantic movie?

By Marinel Tuna

[illegible]



"SOMEWHERE IN TIME." Combines the elements of love and time travel.

Time-travel element

[illegible]

Unconditional love

[illegible]

Ingenious plot

[illegible]



"MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING." Starred Julia Roberts as a woman in love with her soon-to-be-married best buddy.

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 27 DRESSES / THE ...
2 THE EYE
3 MIST
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 THE BUCKET LIST
6 MY BROTHER's WIFE
7 IN THE NAME of the KING / ONE MISSED CALL
8 IndieSine: ROXXANNE
9 CLOVERFIELD
10 JOHN RAMBO / NATIONAL TREASURE 2



ERMITA

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2 / ONE MISSED CALL
2 27 DRESSES
3 THE EYE
4 MIST
5 JOHN RAMBO
6 CLOVERFIELD / SAW IV
7 IN THE NAME of the KING
1 MY BROTHER's WIFE
2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
3 THE BUCKET LIST

METRO EAST

1 IN THE NAME of the KING / ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 MIST
3 27 DRESSES / ONE MISSED CALL
4 THE BUCKET LIST
5 CLOVERFIELD / JOHN RAMBO
6 THE EYE
7 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
8 MY BROTHER's WIFE

NOVALICHES

1 THE EYE
2 IN THE NAME of the KING
3 THE BUCKET LIST
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

PIONEER

1 MIST
2 THE BUCKET LIST
3 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
4 THE EYE

STA. ROSA

1 CLOVERFIELD
2 SAW IV
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

LIPA

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 SAW IV
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

DASMARIÑAS

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 THE EYE

IMUS

1 THE EYE
2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
3 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR
4 ONE MISSED CALL

ANGELES

1 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
2 SYDNEY WHITE
3 THE EYE
4 DRAGON WAR

TARLAC

1 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 AMERICAN GANGSTER

STARMILLS

1 DRAGON WAR
2 THE EYE
3 SYDNEY WHITE
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 JOHN RAMBO

BACOLOD

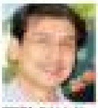
1 DRAGON WAR
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 SWEENEY TODD
6 MARTIAN CHILD / ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2

ILOILO

1 CLOVERFIELD
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
4 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
5 P.S. I LOVE YOU
6 SWEENEY TODD



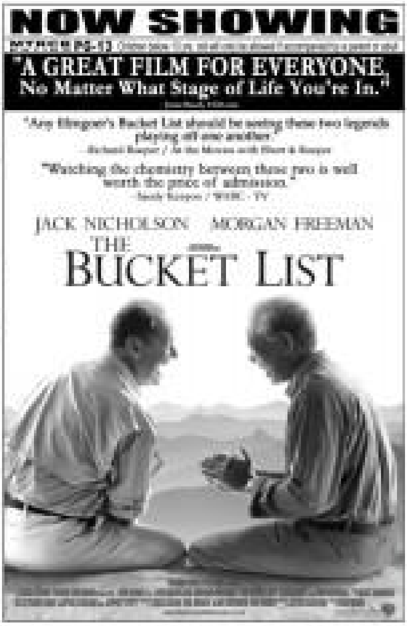
Orestes Ojeda is at home in art circles











Entrepreneurship

First gallery

What's your favorite



Signs of recovery and renewal on local film scene



CURTIS AND MUHLACH. Costars in "Waiting for Love," a coproduction of Star Cinema and Viva Films.

[illegible]

Attention

[illegible]

Time to be merry



[illegible]

Feelings

[illegible]

Old ideas, new twists

[illegible]



JAYA. Releases "Cool Change," one of the best albums of her career.

Cautionary drama

[illegible]



AQUITANIA. Plum perfect in "Batanes."

More polished sound

[illegible]

Reminder

[illegible]



Stars as grist for tabloid media's gossip mills



[illegible]

Decision

[illegible]

Lurid details

[illegible]

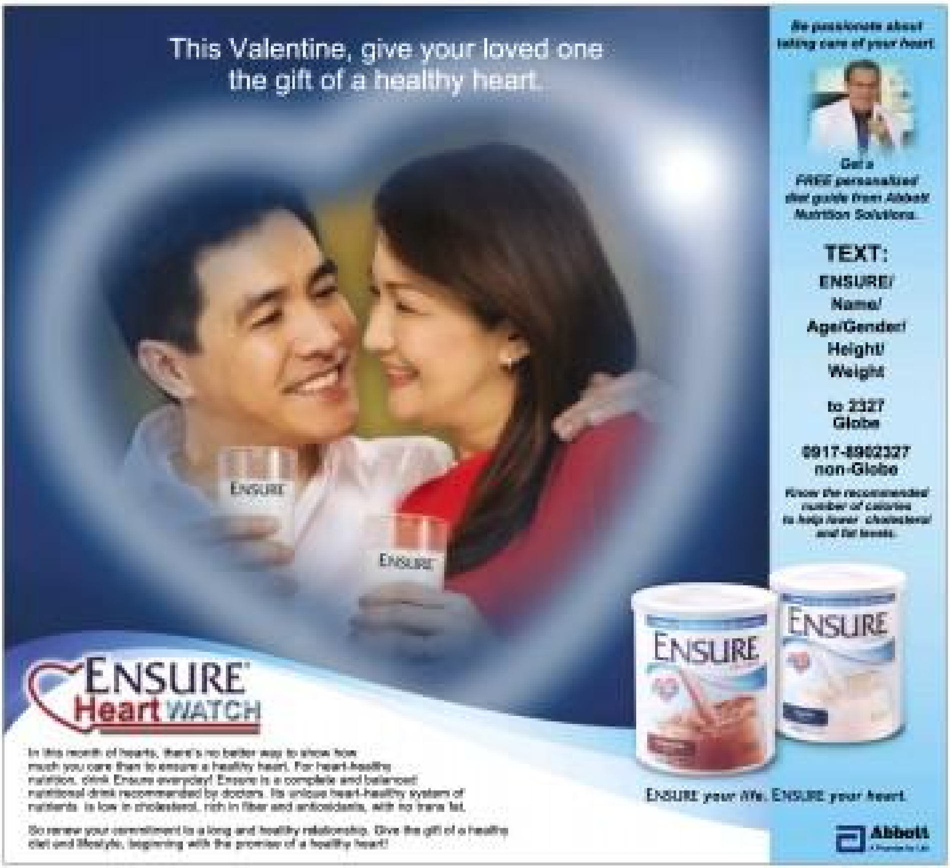
Low blows

[illegible]



Signs of recovery and renewal . . .

[illegible]



IN THIS ISSUE
Bond Girls forever /G4

SATURDAY Spe...

Kate Hudson opens up on Heath, Owen and ex-hubby Chris



HUDSON. "I like people who are pleasing to the eye, but that only lasts for so long. I like people who make me laugh."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Appealing to women

Tabloid stories

A drama novella by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

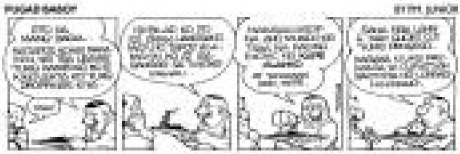
Art: ARNEL A. AVESTRIA



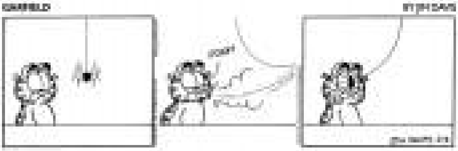
A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



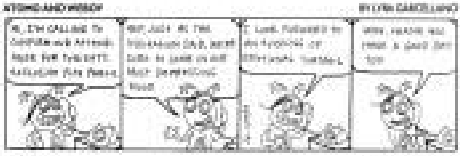
GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



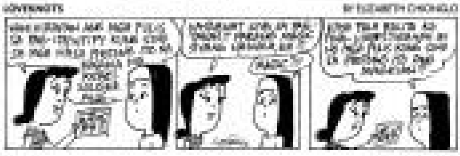
BABY BLUES



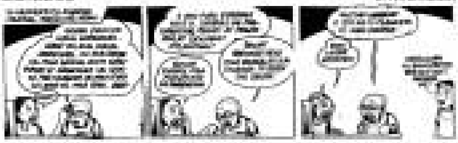
ATOMO AND WEBBY



LOVENOTS



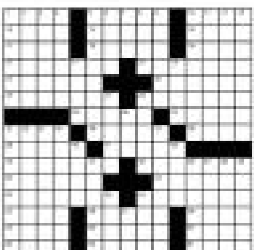
KIKO MACHINE

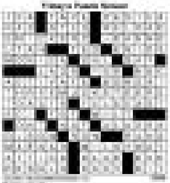


BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

		4	5		8	3		
	2			7			4	
	5		9		7		6	
		8		3		4		
	9		2		1		7	
	8			6			9	
		9	3		4	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Magical month on Hallmark

On 'Oprah'

[illegible]



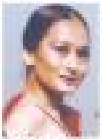
"MERLIN'S APPRENTICE." New TV miniseries debuts tomorrow.

On Cinemax

[illegible]

Pre-Valentine show at TriNoma

[illegible]



MAOIJA. Topbills "Romeo and Juliet" at TriNoma.

'Bag Lihim ni Antonio'

[illegible]

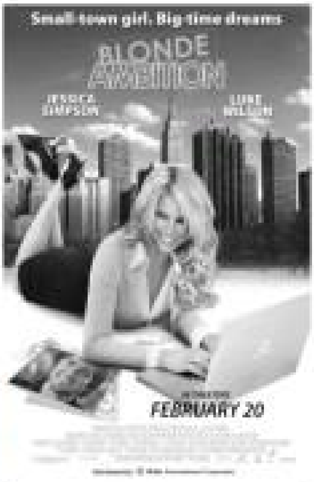
'Crime Scene Wild'

[illegible]

'Love Sings'

[illegible]









Bond Girls forever

By Nestor U. Torre



KURYLENKO AND ANDRESS: The super spy's babes in the upcoming "Quantum of Solace" and "Dr. No," respectively.



JINX: Top choice among younger viewers.

Most admired

Formidable lineup

Magical month on Hallmark

MONTAGE





VIOLAN AND INVENTOR: Know how to use music and comedy to warm the heart and delight the spirit.

Beautiful music, great fun

Toni Gonzaga sings

New shows and episodes on Nickelodeon



Gifted artists pay tribute to 'Glorious Batanes'

By Nestor U. Torre



YOUNG Ivatan mother in traditional vakul.

Typhoons

Culture



ICONIC rendering of old stone house.